

Message Text

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47

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 OMB-01 T-03 RSR-01 /125 W

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R 191246 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2175

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT PINS UG XW

SUBJECT: AMIN MEETS EAC SEC GEN

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT AMIN MET OVER WEEKEND WITH MAINA, EAC SEC GEN. HE ASKED MAINA TO INVESTIGATE ARRESTS OF UGANDANS IN TANZANIA. ALSO ENUMERATED INSTANCES OF FLIGHT FROM UGANDA BY EAC EMPLOYEES, FOR WHICH HE CLAIMED, HE HAD NO EXPLANATION. END SUMMARY.

1. MEETING WITH MAINA, AMIN FIRST BROUGHT UP ARRESTS OF UGANDANS IN TANZANIA. HE SAID IF THEY HAD DONE SOMETHING WRONG, THEN JUSTICE SHOULD BE METED OUT; IF NOT, THEY SHOULD BE RETURNED IMMEDIATELY TO UGANDA. GENERAL SAID GOU IS CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR SECURITY AND THEREFORE WANTS SEC GEN TO INVESTIGATE SITUATION IMMEDIATELY. AMIN ADDED THAT UGANDA DOESN'T INTEND TO RETALIATE; NEVER HAS AND NEVER WILL DETAIN TANZANIANS.

2. AMIN WENT ON TO ENUMERATE SEVERAL INSTANCES OF FLIGHT OF EAC WORKERS THAT HE COULD NOT EXPLAIN. HE MENTIONED 126 EAC EMPLOYEES, 55 EAC AND T EMPLOYEES, FOUR MEMBERS OF RESEARCH

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STAFF AT NAMULONGE AND SERERE, AND DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH ORGANIZATION AT TORORO, ALL OF WHOM HAVE LEFT COUNTRY. HE WENT ON TO RECOUNT DIFFICULTIES THIS SITUATION WAS CAUSING UGANDA. ACCORDING TO AMIN, GOU' S EXPORTS AND IMPORTS WERE CUT IN HALF BECAUSE OF LACK OF ROLLING STOCK IN UGANDA. HE DESCRIBED EAP AND T SITUATION IN UGANDA AS DESPERATE. DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND RESEARCH HAVE LAGGED. NOT ONLY ALL THIS, BUT AMIN COMPLAINED THAT EAC WAS SPENDING SUBSTANTIAL SUMS FOR HOTEL ROOMS IN NAIROBI WHEN RENTED HOUSES WERE VACANT IN KAMPALA. AMIN THEN ASKED MAINA TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO THESE PROBLEMS.

3. COMMENT: AMIN IGNORED CLEAR IMPLICATION OF HIS REMARKS, THAT PROBLEM STEMS FROM LACK OF SECURITY IN UGANDA. AT ONE POINT HE ASSURED MAINA THAT NO SECURITY PROBLEM EXISTS BUT HIS REMARKS HARDLY JUSTIFY THAT ASSURANCES. IN REPLY MAINA COULD ONLY OFFER THAT HE WOULD LOOK INTO MATTER. HE SUGGESTED COMMITTEE OF TOP GOU OFFICIAL S MEET IN NAIROBI TO DISCUSS THESE QTE TOUCHY PROBLEMS UNQTE. MAINA ADDED THAT HE HAD INQUIRED ABOUT TANZANIA ARRESTS BUT HAD RECEIVED NO REPLY FROM TANGOV. ONE INTERESTING SIDELIGHT WAS AMIN' S STATEMENT THAT GOU IS WILLING TO RETURN BODY OF TANZANIAN COLONEL KILLED IN BORDER FIGHTING IN 1971. PASSAGE OF TIME HAS APPARENTLY CHANGED DECEASED' S NATIONALITY FROM CHINESE, AT LEAST IN AMIN' S MIND.
KEELEY

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